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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 11 (a)

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN OR MAY BE CONCERNED

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Mrs. Daes: draft resolution

1997/ ... Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/88 on the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling also the significant message of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/35 on the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recognizing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the source of inspiration and the basis of subsequent progress in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing its serious concern that international human rights standards are not fully and universally respected, that human rights, in particular those of vulnerable groups in society, continue to be violated in many parts of the world and that millions of people still suffer misery, live in poverty and are deprived of the full enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Convinced of the necessity to respect human rights in all situations and to strengthen the efforts of the United Nations in this regard,

Reaffirming that human rights are of international concern and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights constitutes an international standard of paramount importance which has been incorporated in the text of State constitutions in many countries all over the world,

Recognizing the important contribution made by non-governmental organizations and national institutions in the promotion, protection and implementation of human rights,

Noting the comprehensive report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session (A/51/36),

Mindful that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

1. Urges Governments to review and assess the progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to identify obstacles to progress in this area and ways in which they can be overcome, to consider ratifying the International Covenants on Human Rights, if they have not yet done so, and to take legislative and administrative measures to promote and effectively protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. Invites national institutions, non-governmental organizations and scholars to intensify their efforts to inform public opinion for a greater understanding and effective implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

3. Decides to devote a meeting during its fiftieth session to celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration.